TO THE PRIESTHOOD AND MEMBERS

OF THE

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints,

IN THE MANCHESTER CONFERENCE.

DEAR BRETHREN AND SISTERS,

In consequence of my not being able to visit you in person as often as I desire, I have deemed it expedient to address to you this Epistle, that all may have a proper understanding of my mind and will pertaining to the general affairs of this Conference.

The growing magnitude of the work entrusted to my care, and the increasing labours naturally resulting from the same, rest heavilly upon me; I have therefore thought fit, agreeably to the mind of the Spirit that governs me, to effect an organization, more complete in its nature, and better adapted to the condition and wellfare of all the Saints. In doing so, I have thought proper to organize three or more branches, or the officers of the said branches, under one council, to be holden monthly in the most convenient place for that council. I have sought earnestly to select men of experience and integrity to preside over those monthly meetings, whose duty it will be to preside in person or by proxy, over every such council, to give general and particular instructions to the officers composing his district as shall seem for their good, and the prosperity of the work of God in general in their various fields of labour; and they also will be amenable and responsible to me for the faithful discharge of all such duties, and for the good or evil effect that may result from their compliance with, or neglect of such duties.

This organization does not affect the power or destroy the influence of any president or officers of the branches composing the same; on the contrary, it will serve to strengthen their influence and increase their power, if they are faithful in discharging their several duties; for here let me observe, that the presidents of branches are considered the especial councillors to the president of the whole, and the saints are as heretofore instructed to look to them, and honour them, by seeking their counsel as usual.

The reason of such organization is, first, to properly divide and apply the responsibility, and bestow upon every officer, who honours his calling, a reasonable proportion of the same, that they may thereby learn wisdom for themselves, by constant and practical experience, and be the better qualified to impart it to others; for it is a truth, not hard to be understood, that where there is an union of priesthood, there is an increase of power, and the more extensive its dominion, the greater will be the amount of happiness resulting therefrom. Secondly that the minds of the saints may be directed to the proper channel or

source of correct information, in all matters pertaining to their present and future wellbeing.

I will now, as briefly as possible, describe the extent of official power belonging to the officers of the above-named organization. The council will meet, at least every month, for deliberation upon the various matters connected with the said branch, the presidents will represent the true condition of their branches, seek the aid and wisdom of the council in general, and especially of the president, for their better government and prosperity; they will also have power to determine and settle all appeal cases that may be brought before them from each and every of the branches composing their district; also power to make any changes necessary for the government of their branches, to select according to their best wisdom good and judicious men, and appoint them their various fields of labour; also power to select, call and ordain to office men of good report, to officiate as priests, teachers and deacons, point out to them their various duties, and see that they faithfully discharge the same. It will be the duty of every member of the said council to honour the word and respect the standing of the president, as they would do the president of the conference or the president of the British Isles, and by precept and example teach the saints to do the same. It will also be the duty of the presidents of all such councils to forward to me a correct report monthly, of the condition of the saints over whom they have the watchcare, further to cause that a proper record of all their transactions be kept in a book especially appropriated for that purpose. It is to be distinctly understood that the above-mentioned monthly councils will in no way interfere or dispense with the usual weekly council meetings, over which the presidents of branches will as heretofore preside.

Beloved brethren and sisters, you will readilly discover from the above, from whence you are to receive your instructions, and let me, as your humble servant, brother, and faithful friend, to invite you to give diligent and earnest heed to such teachings as shall flow from the lips of those who are thus appointed to be your instructors and shepherds, honour, sustain and uphold them by your prayers, your ready obedience to their wishes in all humility and fervency of spirit before the Lord, in doing so you will greatly enhance your happiness, and enrich your souls with the fruit and bread of eternal life as it shall be freely given by the Holy Spirit to all that comply with a faithful heart to the above-named counsel. To the Priesthood, let me say, Gird up your loins with truth, and diligently seek to increase your knowledge in the Lord, store your minds with wisdom that you may pour forth a flood of light and intelligence upon the faithful saints, that shall make them feel that the Holy One of Israel hath sent you, and is with you to bless, multiply and increase the fruits of your labours. Be as faithful shepherds over the flock

whom God has given you the watchcare; be humble, patient and forbearing, seek earnestly to have power to strengthen the feeble, to succour and sooth those that are ready to faint, remembering that those amongst whom you minister, are not the children of darkness, but the beloved, yea, the elect of the Lord! Remember also, that it were better for a millstone to be hanged about our necks, and we buried in the depths of the sea, than to unjustly give offence to one of these whom God hath chosen. By precept and example, teach the saints in all purity and integrity of heart, to walk uprightly before God and all people, that your light may greatly shine, and its luminous and brilliant rays reflect with power upon the darkened minds of those who now know not God; remember also that ye are the salt of the earth, and power is given unto you to become the saviours of the children of men; then lose not by neglect, transgression or rebellion that important position you now occupy, or the more rich and glorious reward that will be hereafter bestowed upon all that endure faithful.

In all your ministrations among the people, remember the Revelation which says, "Cry nothing but repentance and remission of sins to this generation," in all simplicity and meekness, teaching the necessity of Faith, Repentance, Baptism, and the Laying-on of Hands, promising the gifts of the Holy Spirit to all who shall hear and obey your teachings as the servants of the Lord Jesus Christ. Never suffer yourselves to advance any doctrine or principle that is not in accordance and consistent with the written word of the Scriptures contained in the Bible, Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, together with the Epistles and Counsels that emanate from the proper and legitimate authorities of the Church.

Some men, I regret to say, have imbibed the egregious error, that because of the simplicity and plainness of the first principles of the Gospel, they have thereby become irksome and dry, and in order to manifest their own greatness and exalt themselves before the people, have attempted to teach principles with which they are unacquainted, and consequently have lost the light of the Spirit themselves, and, so far as their influence extended, have darkened the minds of those who heard them. But, my beloved brethren, let not this be the case with you, remembering always that he that exalteth himself shall be abased, but he that humbleth himself shall be exalted, for it is far better for us to ackowledge ourselves simple than to prove ourselves fools, by unwise and injudicious acts, in attempting to teach to others that we ourselves do not KNOW to be true. Keep constantly before your own and the minds of the saints, the great importance of observing all the counsels that come unto us through the medium of the STAR, point out clearly the necessity of sustaining the Presidency in Liverpool, in their efforts to spread abroad the printed word, by purchasing and more extensively circulating tracts, books, &c., in their immediate vicinity. I would here counsel all the branches

that have not already done so, to immediately organize a Tract Society, and raise a fund expressly for that purpose.

The presidents of branches and travelling elders will give the necessary instructions relative to this organization. They are also especially counselled to teach, by precept and example, the great necessity of swelling the PERPETUAL EMIGRATION FUND; let no officer or member, travelling or local, consider themselves too poor to pay to that Fund, and let a strict account be kept by the proper agent of all such sums paid, that the saints may have due credit for all their exertions in complying with this counsel. All those who know themselves to be in a position to pay tithing, are hereby put in mind that it is required of them by the commandment of the Lord.—see 5th Gen. Epistle, in Millennial Star.

One more item of counsel to you, and I will bring this Epistle to a close. Brethren and sisters, the elders that are travelling among you, viz:—Elders J. ROBINSON, J. PICTON, E. EVANS and R. H. ATTWOOD, (who has been recently appointed by the Presidency in Liverpool,) as the servants of the Most High God, minister freely and liberally to all their necessities, knowing that in proportion as you bless them, you shall be blessed yourselves. In conclusion, let me say, that I most heartily thank you, one and all, officers and members, for your prompt and ready attention to my counsels as they have been previously made known unto you, as well as for your generous and charitable contributions, and I beg most earnestly to solicit an interest in all your prayers. Brethren and sisters, may God greatly bless you, your families, interests, associations in life, and abundantly increase your joys in the Lord, worlds without end, is the constant wish and fervent prayer of your brother and fellow-servant, in the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ,

C. H. WHEELOCK.

45, *Clare-street, Hulme, Manchester,*
SEPT. 1ST, 1851.

P.S.—The Elders in charge of meetings are desired and respectfully requested to read this Epistle in the most public meetings of the Saints, until all shall have a clear understanding and knowledge thereof.

TO THE FEMALE TRACT DISTRIBUTORS.

BY SAMUEL HAWTHORNTHWAITE.

Hail, gentle messengers of peace!
May peace and joy to you increase.
To you the pleasing task is given,
The task of holy hosts in heaven,
To join your brethren with delight,
And crush the powers of darkest night!

How long shall ignorance beguile
The humble of our native isle?
Who groan and sigh from hour to hour,
Beneath a withering priestcraft's power,
While light is beaming from above,
To radiate their souls with love!

Go to the lowest, darkest cell,
Where want and death together dwell;
Go where this world's portion's scant,—
Go to Britain's sons of want,
And, from the depths of deep distress,
Raise up new hopes of happiness!

Go to the rich, the brave, the great—
Go where pleasure's downy seat
Bears up its burden, sick with ease,
Nor care the softest ear to please,
But teach them how this life to live,
That God alone can pleasure give.

Go where angry statesmen strive,—
Go where quick rebellions thrive;
Go to the learn'd, the proud, the high,
Nor pass the gravest sages by,
But unto all this lesson show,—
True knowledge is our God to know!

Then, go to all, ye lov'd of God!
Wide diffuse His printed word;
And, for your comfort, still we'll pray,
The Lord shall bless you day by day,—
He'll guide you through this world of strife,
And crown you with eternal life.

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